

is not one country; It is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. "The only way that the repression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities will end is to liberate our homelands, such as Khalistan, Nagaland, Kashmir, and the rest," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

IN MEMORY OF ESTHER
MARTINEZ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart today to honor the memory of a very special New Mexican, Esther Martinez.

Esther Martinez is renowned for her work as an educator, author, and master storyteller. But it is her life story that is very unique.

Born in 1912, her grandson Matthew notes that Esther typically introduced herself by saying she was born the same year New Mexico became a State and the *Titanic* sank. As a young girl, she traveled by covered wagon with her grandparents from her home in the Ute Country of Colorado to what was then known as San Juan Pueblo, now Okay Owingeh.

After arriving at Okay Owingeh, Esther was sent to the Santa Fe Indian Boarding School, as a part of the Federal Government's efforts to assimilate Native Americans into mainstream society. There she was scolded and often punished for speaking Tewa, her native tongue. As a lonely young girl, Esther longed to hear the voices and stories of her grandparents.

Story telling in her native Tewa language would be Esther's greatest legacy. She dedicated herself to maintaining and preserving the various forms of the Tewa language. Among her Pueblo people Esther or Aunt Esther, as many called her, is best known for her storytelling, but also recognized for her linguistic and educational contributions.

Esther taught Tewa at the San Juan Day School and for more than 20 years served as the school's director of bilingual education.

She also published her stories and used them as learning tools in the classroom. As a master of the Tewa language, she compiled Tewa dictionaries in various dialects for the northern New Mexico Pueblos and also translated the New Testament into Tewa.

Last Thursday, Esther was in Washington, DC, where I had the privilege of helping present her with the Nation's highest honor for folk and traditional artists. At the age of 94, Esther was named a 2006 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts. With members of her family in the audience, Esther rose to be honored and received a standing ovation for her life's work preserving her native Tewa language and traditions.

Tragically, while making her way back home from the airport Saturday evening, Esther was

killed in a traffic accident. Two of her daughters traveling with her suffered injuries but survived the crash.

Our hearts weigh heavy with the news of Esther's tragic passing but her legacy will forever live in the contributions she made to our Nation as an educator, linguist, and master storyteller. Her greatest role, however, was as a mother of 10 and grandmother who was loved by many. Our deepest sympathies are with them today.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO TOM
VELOZ

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor the memory of my friend, Thomas Michael Veloz. A caring and charitable man who was a monumental presence in Santa Clarita, CA, Tom passed away on September 13, 2006, at the age of 69.

Born in New York in 1937, Tom moved to California with his family in the 1950's. He attended the University of Southern California and graduated with a degree in business finance and education in 1960. After graduating, Tom worked in his father's business, Aquafine Corporation. Eventually assuming the role of president, Tom made the company an international success and then began another thriving business, Ultra Violet Devices, Inc. He was well regarded by his peers who held him in high esteem for his leadership, honesty and integrity. Extremely astute and innovative, Tom helped define many of his industry's current manufacturing standards.

Success in business afforded Tom the opportunity to be a generous philanthropist and he was honored several times for his efforts. Tom was a major benefactor to Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, College of the Canyons and many other local nonprofit organizations, including local chapters of the United Way, American Cancer Society and the American Diabetes Association. But helping kids became his passion and he was a driving force behind the Santa Clarita Valley Boys and Girls Club. Tom was also very instrumental in opening the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Imaging Center at Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital in memory of his second wife, Sheila, and he actively participated on the center's board.

With his contagious sense of fun and enthusiastic love of life, Tom had a genuine affection for others. He was a funny man with a constant smile and a twinkle in his eye, and he made many friends, some of whom became targets of his renowned practical jokes. Always the doting grandfather, Tom enjoyed semi-retirement because it gave him the opportunity to spend more time with his beloved grandchildren.

Although Tom will be remembered as a visionary community leader who generously helped others, his lasting legacy rests in his family. He is survived by his wife, Janet, sons, David and Peter, his first wife, Roberta, brothers, Robert, and his identical twin, Frank, as well as stepdaughters, Sheryl Regan and Janine Jones, and 10 grandchildren. His second wife, Sheila, preceded him in death.

Tom's life personifies Cicero's statement that the memory of a well-spent life never dies. Tom Veloz made a positive and profound difference in the Santa Clarita Valley. He will be remembered as a kind man with a giving heart; one who always strived to make his world a better place.

HBCU WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of the outstanding contributions that our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities have given us over the years.

There are four HBCU's in the state of Florida: Florida Memorial in Miami, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, my alma mater, and Edward College in my district in Jacksonville, and Bethune Cookman, a great institution in Daytona Beach, a school I work very closely with.

The importance and outstanding work HBCU's do around the country is most noteworthy. In addition to educating African American students nationwide, they provide resources for our communities, such as mentoring and tutoring programs for our youth.

Around the country, HBCU's enroll 14 percent of all African American students in higher education, even though they make up just 3 percent of our nation's 4,000 institutions of higher education. HBCU's have awarded masters degrees and first-professional degrees to about 1 in 6 African American men and women, and awarded 24 percent of all baccalaureate degrees earned by African Americans nationwide.

I would also like to add that my Alma Mater, Florida A&M University, currently tops the list for black students and was recognized in this month's edition of Black Enterprise Magazine for being the #1 university in the country for black students. It is also the #1 producer of blacks earning bachelors degrees in the United States!

FAMU alone has produced many of society's leaders in various fields, including myself, ALCEE HASTINGS, KENDRICK MEEK, other Members of Congress past and present, the current mayor of Detroit, Kwame Kilpatrick, tennis great Althea Gibson, and football legend Bullet Bob Hayes. Most recently, FAMU has produced young leaders such as Mr. Andrew Gillum, the youngest City Councilman ever to be elected in Tallahassee, Florida, Miss Black Universe 2006, Ms. Kimberlee Borland, and an emerging leader on my staff, Mr. Joseph Bastian.

As you can see, Historically Black Colleges and Universities are a staple in our community and are vital to the success of the students striving to achieve the American dream. These colleges and universities are preparing a new generation of leaders, business people, teachers, entrepreneurs and scholars. I urge your continued support of these historic institutions as we recognize them and spotlight their achievements.